

A1 said fixing operation comprises fixing each pin to its corresponding insert support member.

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**REMARKS**

This response is being filed prior to receipt of any substantive official action.

After entry of the above-requested claim amendments, only the new Claims 131-144 will be pending in the application, the new claims including two independent claims and fourteen total claims. Accordingly, no additional claim fees are due.

New Claims 131-144 are fully supported in the originally filed PCT application, particularly having reference to Figures 72-89 and the specification at Pages 37, Line 23 through Page 40. No new matter is being presented in the new claims.

This Supplemental Preliminary Amendment adds new claims and cancels currently pending Claims 1-20 in order to better define the scope of the invention that the Applicants elect to claim, and not to overcome prior art, any rejections under 35 USC 112, or any other rejections or objections. Furthermore, the cancellation of Claims 1-20 shall not be considered necessary to overcome prior art, rejections under 35 USC 112, or any other rejections or objections.

The Applicants reserve the right to seek protection for any cancelled or unclaimed subject matter either subsequently in the prosecution of the present case or in a divisional or continuation application.

March 20, 2002

In compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.121, Applicants submit herewith a clean copy of the amended claims. The clean copy of the amended claims starts on a separate page.

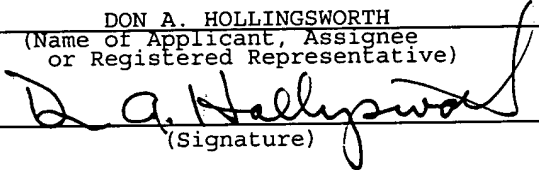
It is submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. Allowance of the application at an early date is solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 12-0415 and, in particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this Response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this paper timely filed, and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account No. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231 on

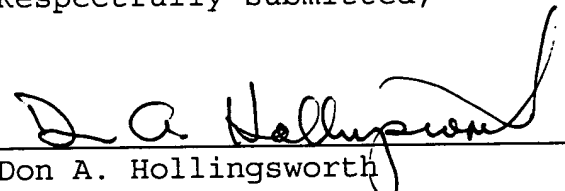
March 20, 2002  
(Date of Deposit)

DON A. HOLLINGSWORTH  
(Name of Applicant, Assignee  
or Registered Representative)

  
(Signature)

March 20, 2002  
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Respectfully submitted,

  
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**Clean Copy of Claims**

131. A decorative jewelry item, comprising:

a base member having a hollow interior, a top with an opening therein leading to said hollow interior, a bottom, and a sidewall extending from said top to said bottom; and

a decorative insert configured and sized in relation to said base member top opening to be inserted, through said top opening, into said hollow interior and positioned below said top;

said decorative insert being fixed within said base member hollow interior with said decorative insert viewable through said top opening.

132. The decorative jewelry item as claimed in Claim 131, comprising:

a support member fixed to said base member within said hollow interior; and wherein

said decorative insert is captured within said base member between said base member top and said support member.

133. The decorative jewelry item as claimed in Claim 132, wherein said decorative insert is fixed to said support member within said base member by a process selected from the group consisting of applying an adhesive, soldering, welding including laser welding, molecular bonding, swaging, bending, and clamping.

134. The decorative jewelry item as claimed in Claim 132, wherein:

said decorative insert comprises a plate-like top and a rear projecting pin;

said support member has a hole therethrough for receiving said pin; and

said pin is fixed to said support member by a process selected from the group consisting of applying an adhesive, soldering, welding including laser welding, molecular bonding, swaging, bending, and clamping.

135. The decorative jewelry item as claimed in Claim 132, wherein:

said decorative insert comprises a plate-like top and a rear projecting pin;

said support member has a hole therethrough for receiving said pin; and

said pin is fixed within said hollow base member by a retainer affixed to said pin below said support member, whereby said pin is slidable, to a limited extent, and rotatable in said insert support member, for an enhanced visual effect.

136. The decorative jewelry item as claimed in Claim 133, wherein:

said support member comprises a plate-like member fixed within said base member below said top.

137. The decorative jewelry item as claimed in Claim 134, wherein:

said support member comprises a plate-like member fixed within said base member below said top, said plate-like support member having a hole therein through which said pin may pass.

138. The decorative jewelry item as claimed in Claim 131, wherein:

said base member is segmented, and each said segment comprises a hollow interior, a top with an opening therein

leading to said hollow interior, a bottom, and a sidewall extending from said top to said bottom; and

ones of said decorative insert, configured and sized in relation to each said segment top opening, are inserted, through said top openings, into said hollow interiors and positioned below said tops;

said decorative inserts being fixed within respective segment hollow interiors with said decorative inserts viewable through said top openings.

139. A method for constructing a decorative jewelry item, comprising:

providing a base member having a hollow interior, a top with an opening therein leading to said hollow interior, a bottom, and a sidewall extending from said top to said bottom;

providing a decorative insert configured and sized in relation to said base member to be inserted through said top opening and into said hollow interior; and

placing said decorative insert into said hollow base member through said top opening and positioned below said top, whereby said decorative insert is viewable through said top opening.

140. The method as claimed in Claim 139, wherein:

said jewelry item comprises a support member fixed to the interior of said base member; and

said step of placing includes inserting said decorative insert through said top opening between said base member top and said support member.

141. The method as claimed in Claim 149, comprising, after said placing operation:

fixing said decorative insert to said support member within said base member.

142. The method as claimed in Claim 141, wherein:

said provided decorative insert comprises a plate-like top and a rear projecting pin;

said support member is provided with a hole therethrough for receiving said pin; and

said fixing operation includes fixing said pin to said support member by a process selected from the group consisting of applying an adhesive, soldering, welding including laser welding, molecular bonding, swaging, bending, and clamping.

143. The method as claimed in Claim 142, wherein:

said provided base member is segmented and has a multiple segmented hollow interior, a top with a multiple segmented opening therein leading to said hollow interior, a bottom, and a sidewall extending from said top to said bottom;

said provided decorative insert is configured and sized in relation to said multiple segmented top opening to be inserted, through said multiple segmented top opening, into said hollow interior and positioned below said top; and

said fixing operation comprises inserting said multiple segmented decorative insert within said hollow interior with each segment of said multiple segmented decorative insert viewable through said top opening.

144. The method as claimed in Claim 143, wherein:

said multiple segmented decorative insert has a plurality of said rear projecting pins, one of said pins located adjacent opposite edges of said multiple segmented decorative insert, such

that at least one segment of said multiple segmented decorative insert does not have a rear projecting pin;

said segmented base member has a plurality of insert support members fixed to said base member interior for receiving corresponding ones of said plurality of rear projecting pins; and

said fixing operation comprises fixing each pin to its corresponding insert support member.